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To: Mr. Richard Chavez  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Fax: (202) 690-2221

Date: January 11, 2006

From: Port of Seattle

Re.: Procurement of Commodities for Foreign Donation 7 CFR Port 1496,  
RIN 0560-AH30

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We just became aware of the proposed rule change in late December, as published in the Federal Register/Vol. 70, No. 241 on December 16, 2005. Due to the holiday period, we are just now starting to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed change on our port's competitive position for donation commodities. The Federal Register notice specifically mentions possible changes in port allocation as a potential impact of the proposed rule change. We do not feel that the deadline of January 17, 2006 for the receipt of comments provides us with enough time to thoroughly research and evaluate the impact of the proposed rule change on our port's food aid business. Furthermore, this date does not provide us enough time to adequately prepare thorough and meaningful comments to this proposed rule change for the procurement of donation commodities.

Accordingly, the Port of Seattle is requesting a 45 day extension of the January 17, 2006 date established by the Commodity Credit Corporation for the receipt of comments on this proposed rule change.

Sincerely,  
Kent Christopher  
General Manager  
Port of Seattle  
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206-728-3569

